



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Food security means that a household has assured access to enough food that is nutritionally adequate and safe. Food insecurity means that a household does not have access to enough food. Women who are food insecure must choose between buying lower cost and less nutritious food and/or buying food instead of paying for household expenses or medical costs. The concept of food insecurity also reflects the emotional stress and anxiety experienced by women due to the lack of available funds to buy food.¹

The 2000 California Women's Health Survey asked women ages 18 and older questions regarding hunger and access to food in their household. The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a six-question severity scale that is used to produce estimates of the extent of food

insecurity in the nation. This measure can also be used by states to produce comparable estimates for each state.¹ The California Women's Health Survey asked women these six questions to determine how many California women were food insecure.

- In 2000, Hispanic (48%) and Black (24%) women were more likely than White (14%) or Asian/Other women (17%) to be food insecure.
- As the age of women increased, the percent who were food insecure decreased. Younger women less than 34 years of age were more likely than women over age 34 to be food insecure, 29% compared to 18%.

¹ Bickel G, Andrews M, and Klein B. "Measuring Food Security in the U.S.: A Supplement to the CPS." USDA Food and Consumer Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Alexandria, VA January 1996.

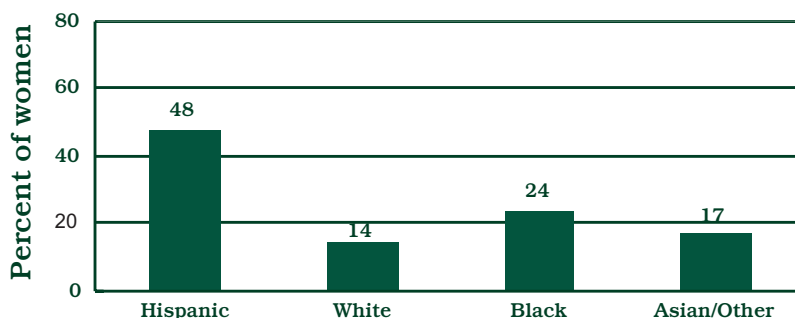
FOOD INSECURITY AMONG WOMEN BY RACE/ ETHNICITY AND AGE, CALIFORNIA, 2000

Research and Evaluation
Branch, California
Department of Social
Services; Cancer Preven-
tion and Nutrition
Section, Cancer Control
Branch, California
Department of Health
Services

Public Health Message:

Substantial disparities in food security are present among California women surveyed by race/ethnicity, and by age. Targeted efforts are needed to assure secure access to food among all California women.

Women Who Were Food Insecure by
Race/Ethnicity, California, 2000



Issue 3, Summer 2002, Num. 9